Message Text

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17/43

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O R 211933Z FEB 76 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN AMEMBASSY KINSHASA AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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CORRECTED COPY (PARA 1 LINE 9 OMITTED)

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:PFOR, AO, US, SF, ZA, CG

SUBJECT: STATEMENT BY STAFFER OF SENATOR TUNNEY ON ZAMBIA/SOUTH AFRICAN CONNECTION

REF: A) LUSAKA 396; B) CAPETOWN 162

1. DEPARTMENT DISCUSSED ARTICLE TRANSMITTED REF B WITH TUNNEY STAFFERS MORAN AND COUGHLIN. ACCORDING TO COUGHLIN, HE WAS MISQUOTED BY THE REPORTER FROM "RAPPORT" MAGAZINE. COUGHLIN STATES THAT HE DID NOT REPEAT NOT SAY THAT KAUNDA ARRANGED THE VARIOUS MEETINGS BETWEEN SAVIMBI AND THE SOUTH AFRICANS THAT WERE ALLEGED IN THE "RAPPORT" ARTICLE. HE SAID THAT SAVIMBI TOLD HIM KAUNDA WAS INFORMED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF SAVIMBI'S INTENTION TO MEET WITH THE SAG AND DID NOT

OBJECT. COUGHLIN DID SAY TO THE REPORTER THAT SAVIMBI

HAD TOLD HIM THAT ZAIRE, ZAMBIA AND THE IVORY COAST HAD FOREKNOWLEDGE OF THE MILITARY ACTIONS OF SOUTH AFRICA AND HAD APPROVED SUCH ACTIONS. COUGHLIN TOLD THE DEPARTMENT THAT THIS INFORMATION DID NOT RPT NOT COME FROM CHONA BUT RATHER FROM SAVIMBI AFTER COUGHLIN ADVISED SAVIMBI THAT ANY INFORMATION PROVIDED TO COUGHLIN MIGHT BE PUBLISHED IN THE US.

2. LUSAKA: WE ARE NOT SURE THAT A PUBLIC DENIAL OF

KAUNDA'S ALLEGED ROLE IN ARRANGING SAVIMBI'S MEETINGS WITH THE SOUTHAFRICANS WOULDN"TSIMPLY REKINDLE INTEREST IN A STORY THAT MIGHTOTHERWISE QUICKLY LOSE APPEAL. SUGGEST YOU INFORM CHONA THAT COUGHLIN DENIES MAKING SOME OF THE STATEMENTS (PARA 2(B) AND 2(C) OF REF.A) THAT EVOKED CHONA'S WRATH AND THAT, IF CHONA DESIRES, WE WILL INSTRUCT EMBASSY CAPETOWN TO ISSUE A DENIAL. SUGGEST TO CHONA BEST COURSE MIGHT BE TO WITHHOLD COMMENT UNLESS AND UNTIL THERE IS A NEED TO ADDRESS ISSUE. INGERSOLL

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TAGS: PFOR, AO, US, SF, ZA, CG, UNITA, (TUNNEY, JOHN V), (CHONA, MARK), (SAVIMBA, JONAS), (MORAN), (COUGHLIN)

To: LUSAKA CAPE TOWN

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